l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

A GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF

KAMTSCHATKA.

AND OF THE

COASTS and ISLANDS adjacent to it.

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PART I.

CHAP. I.

Of KAMTSCHATKA.

THOUGH the country called *Kamtſchatka* was long known to the geographers of former times, yet ſo little were they acquainted with its ſituation, that they believed it to be joined to *Yeſſo*; and this opinion was looked upon in thoſe days as a very probable conjecture: but it has been ſince found that between the two countries there is a large ſea, interſperſed with many iſlands. The

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131 *Ruſſians* could form their maps of *Kamtſchatka* only from conjecture 'till it was brought under their ſubjection; and then they could not immediately procure any accurate or ſatisfactory knowledge of the country, for want of perſons properly qualified to make the neceſſary enquiries.

The two late expeditions have greatly contributed to complete the geography of theſe parts; particularly the laſt, in which the ſea-officers delineated exactly all the eaſtern coaſt of *Kamtſchatka* as far as the cape of *Tchukotſkoi*, all the weſtern to the *Penſchinſka* gulph, and from *Ochotſkoy* to the river *Amur*: they deſcribed the iſlands lying between *Japan* and *Kamtſchatka*, and alſo thoſe which are between *Kamtſchatka* and *America*. At the ſame time the gentlemen of the Academy undertook to determine the ſituation of *Kamtſchatka* by aſtronomical obſervations, and to remark every thing worthy of notice in the civil and natural hiſtory of the country and places adjacent. In this chapter I ſhall only treat of the geography of this country.

That great peninſula, which makes the boundary of *Aſia* to the north-eaſt, and ſtretches itſelf from north to ſouth about 7° 30′, is called *Kamtſchatka*. I place the beginning of this peninſula at the rivers *Puſtaia*, and *Anapho*, lying in the latitude of 59° 30′. The firſt runs into the *Penſchinſka* ſea, and the other to the eaſtward. At theſe places the iſthmus is ſo narrow, that I am credibly informed the ſea may in fair weather be ſeen on both ſides from the hills in the middle. As the country runs broader towards the north, I reckon this place the iſthmus that joins the peninſula to the main land. The government of *Kamtſchatka* extends no farther than to this place; and all the country north of this boundary is called *Zenoſſe*, and is under the government of *Anadir*.

The ſouthern part of this peninſula, which is called *Lopatka*, lies in 51° 3′ north latitude. The difference of longitude from *Peterſbourg* is by the beſt obſervations found to be at *Ochotſkoy* 112° 53′

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112° 53′ east longitude, and thence to *Bolſcheretſkoi* or the Great River 14° 6′ east. The figure of the peninſula of *Kamtſchatka* is ſomewhat elliptical, being broader towards the middle, and growing narrower towards both ends. Its broadeſt place is between the mouth of the river *Tegbil* and the river *Kamtſchatka*. Towards the ſource they are joined by the river *Elouki*. 131

The *Elouki* runs in the ſame latitude with thoſe rivers for 415 verſts. They call the ſea which ſeparates *Kamtſchatka* from *America* the Eaſtern Ocean. On the weſtern ſide lies the *Penſchinſka* ſea, which begins near the ſouthern point of the cape of *Kamtſchatka* and the *Kurilſki* iſlands, and runs northward between the weſtern coaſt of *Kamtſchatka* and the coaſt of *Ochotſkoy* more than 1000 verſts. The northern part is called the bay of *Penſchinſka* from the river *Penſchina* which falls into it. The hills make one continued ridge from north to ſouth through the peninſula, almoſt equally dividing the country. From this ridge ſeveral others extend towards the ſea, between which are the courſes of the rivers. Theſe ridges ſometimes run a conſiderable way into the ſea, and are called Noſs, or capes. There are more of theſe upon the eaſtern than the weſtern coaſt. All the bays between the capes are called, in general, ſeas; each having its particular name, as the *Olutorſky* ſea, *Kamtſchatka* ſea, *&c.* We ſhall hereafter give our reaſons for calling the whole peninſula by the name of *Kamtſchatka*, though in fact it hath in none of the different languages of the inhabitants any general appellation; but every part of the country receives its name from its inhabitants, or ſomething remarkable obſerved in it: and even the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks underſtand *Kamtſchatka* to be only the country lying near the river of that name; and to the other parts of this peninſula they have given the following appellations: 133 103

Kurilſki Country is the ſouthern part, ſo named from the *Kuriles* that inhabit it.

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491 487 *Bolſcheretskoi* fort to the *Kurilskaya Lopatka* is 210 verſts 300 fathoms, which ſpace may be eaſily travelled, even in four days; but the Coſſacks of thoſe places have a cuſtom of ſtopping at any ſmall fort, under pretence of ſome buſineſs there, though their moſt probable motive is to refreſh their dogs. At a middling rate I have travelled in three days from the *Kamtſchatkoi* to the *Bolſcheretskoi*, which is near 150 verſts.

	verſts	fathoms
From the *Bolſcheretskoi* fort to the mouth of the Great River — — —	33	0
From the mouth, along the ſea-ſhore, to the river *Opala* —— ——	85	0
From thence to the *Koſhubochiek* —	18	0
From thence to the *Yavina* ——	15	0
From thence to the river *Ozernaya* —	15	0
From thence to the *Kambalina* —	36	300
From thence to the *Lopatka* —	27	0
In all from the *Bolſcheretskoi* to the *Kurilskaya Lopatka* —— ——	210	300

CHAP. III.

Of the KURILSKI ISLANDS.

109 131 UNDER the name of *Kurilski* iſlands are underſtood all thoſe iſlands which extend from the *Kurilskaya Lopatka*, or the ſouthern end of *Kamtſchatka*, in a row ſouth-weſt quite to *Japan*. They derive their names from the inhabitants of thoſe iſlands which lie neareſt to *Kamtſchatka*, who are called by

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103 131 the natives *Kuſhi*, and by the *Ruſſians Kuriles*. The exact number of thoſe iſlands cannot be aſcertained; but, according to the verbal accounts which were gathered from the *Kuriles*, and the natives of the ſouthernmoſt iſlands, and from the *Japaneſe*, who were driven by diſtreſs of weather upon the coaſt of *Kamtſchatka*, they are reckoned to be twenty-two. Perhaps they do not take the ſmall ones into this number: for by the account of captain *Spanberg*, who went as far as *Japan*, there appears to be a great many more; but as the ſaid captain found it difficult to give them *Ruſſian* names, all of them that had any relation to the *Kurilskoy* names, except the two that lay neareſt to *Matma Kunatin*, were allowed to keep their former appellations.

133 136 161 651 *Schumtſchu* is the neareſt iſland to the *Kurilskaya Lopatka*, and extends in length from the north-eaſt to the ſouth-weſt 50 verſts, and in breadth about 30. This iſland is full of mountains, out of which, as alſo from the ſmall lakes and marſhes, many little rivers run into the ſea. In ſome of them are found different kinds of ſalmon, and ſeveral other fiſh, but not in ſuch plenty as to furniſh the inhabitants with proviſions for a winter. Upon the ſouth-weſt point, near the ſtreight that is between this and the ſecond *Kurilskoy* iſland, are three *Kurilskoy* ſettlements, that contain only 44 inhabitants; ſome of whom pay the taxes in ſables and foxes, but the majority pay them in ſea-beavers' ſkins.

The inhabitants of this iſland, as well as thoſe of the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*, are not the right *Kuriles*, but are of the race of the *Kamtſchadales*: for ſome diſſentions having ariſen between the inhabitants of that nation, ſoon after the *Ruſſians* entered the country, a large party of them retired here and to the *Lopatka*; where they became connected, by mutual inter-marriages, with the people of the ſecond iſland, whoſe particular cuſtoms they have adopted, and from thence have received the name of *Kuriles*.

The

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101 131 The natives are divided into three different people, namely, the *Kamtſchadales*, *Koreki*, and *Kuriles*. The *Kamtſchadales* live upon the ſouth ſide of the promontory of *Kamtſchatka*, from the mouth of the river *Ukoi* to the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*, and upon the firſt *Kurilſkoy* iſland *Schumtſchu*: the *Koreki* inhabit the northern parts on the coaſt of the *Penſchinſka* ſea as far as the river *Nuktchan*, and round the Eaſtern Ocean almoſt to *Anadir*: the *Kuriles* inhabit the ſecond *Kurilſkoy* iſland, and the other iſlands in that ſea, reaching as far as thoſe of *Japan*.

101 184 197 171 The *Kamtſchadales* may be divided into the northern and ſouthern; the northern people, who live along the river *Kamtſchatka* on the coaſt of the Eaſtern Ocean as far as the mouth of the river *Ukoi*, and ſouthward to the mouth of the river *Nalacheva*, may be eſteemed the principal nation; their manners being more civiliſed, and their language appearing every where to be the ſame; whereas the others ſpeak differently on every iſland.

The ſouthern nation live along the coaſt of the Eaſtern Ocean, from the *Nalacheva* to the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*, and thence along the *Penſchinſka* ſea northwards to the river *Hariouſkovoy*.

The *Koreki* are commonly divided into two nations; one is called the rein-deer *Koreki*, and the other the fixed *Koreki*. The former wander with their herds from place to place; the latter live near the rivers, like the *Kamtſchadales*. Their languages are ſo different that they do not underſtand each other, particularly thoſe that border upon the *Kamtſchadales*, from whom they have borrowed much of their language.

101 177 184 Some likewiſe divide the *Kuriles* into two different nations or tribes, calling one the diſtant and the other the nearer *Kuriles*. By the diſtant they underſtand the inhabitants of the ſecond *Kurilſkoy* iſland and the others that lie near *Japan*; by the nearer *Kuriles*, the inhabitants of *Lopatka* and of the firſt iſland. But this diviſion is not proper; for though the inhabitants of the firſt iſland and the *Lopatka* differ ſomewhat from the *Kamtſchadales* both

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

was not necessarily mutual. Man might follow the mammoth in order to hunt him, but the mammoth had no need of man. Thus the remains of mammoth do not indicate that man lived in the same place, if there is no direct proof of it. However, the presence of the mammoth may postulate to climatic conditions fit for man to live in, and it remains for the future to find remains of the palæolithic man; but for the time being one may be right to hold to the theory of the peopling of Kamchatka in Recent Times, especially since no palæolithic artifacts were discovered in my excavations, and I feel authorized to say that the late peopling of Kamchatka may corroborate the theory of the reemigration of the Siberian Americanoids from America after the last glaciation subsided. To be fair, however, I must add that I had no time to make excavations in the Kamchatka River valley and that no regular excavations were made in the territory of the other Americanoids—the Koryak, Chukchee and Yukaghir.

GEOGRAPHY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The country of the Kamchadal—or the part of the Kamchatka Peninsula to the south, from the Amanino village to the west, and Osernaya River to the east—was a part of the Primorskaya Province. In 1909 a new province of Kamchatka was created, which included 6 districts: Okhotsk, Gishiginsk, Anadyrsk, Chukotsky, Commandor Islands and Petropavlovsky. The last district is the territory of the Kamchadal. The city of Petropavlovsk was made the capital of the province and the seat of a newly appointed Governor.

The former Territory of the Kamchadal is inhabited by 8,037 people, of which 3,370 are Russians, 3,555 Kamchadal, 802 immigrated reindeer Koryak and Tungus and 300 Chinese, Koreans and Japanese. There were also 10 Europeans and Americans.[1]

The Kamchadal have become Russianized and only the inhabitants of seven villages (between Amanino and Sopochnöye) of the western coast have preserved their native language—the western dialect of the Kamchadal language—and the inhabitants of the village Sedanka on the Tighil River speak the northern dialect. There were formerly four Kamchadal dialects, and at present even the Kamchadal, who speak two dialects, use more of a Russian-Kamchadal slang than the pure Kamchadal. The younger generation is learning Russian in the schools, and soon the Kamchadal language will be forgotten entirely, as was the case with the dialect of the Kamchatka River and with the southern dialect, which was spoken between the Great River (Bolshaya Reka) and Lopatka Cape. While the northern dialect of the Kamchadal on the Tighil River contains many Koryak words, the southern dialect had an intermixture of Kurilian words. Krasheninnikoff called the southern Kamchadal people Kurilians.

The Kamachdal had been and still remain a genuine fishing tribe. They did not adopt from their Koryak neighbors the reindeer, although they were

[1] According to official data of 1911. During the summer fishing season, Kamchatka's shores have many thousands of temporary dwellers. Russians who operate canneries and saltcries bring thousands of laborers. The number of Japanese fishers at the time of my stay in Kamchatka was estimated at more than 10,000. About 250 Japanese schooners were lying near the shores and about ten Japanese steamers were coming from and leaving for Japan. According to the convention concluded after the Russian-Japanese War the Japanese were authorized to fish everywhere in Kamchatka waters except bays and river-mouths, but by bribing the guards they used to fish also in the inner waters.

hunting the wild Kamchatka variety of reindeer.

24: Lansdell--634-635 M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal-I-3
116, 131, 133

"The traveller who, from Okhotsk, wishes to visit Kamchatka may reach Petropavlovsk by sea through the Kuriles, or continue round the coast by road. The latter course takes him through Yamsk to Ghijiga, at the north of the bay, a distance of 1,100 miles. He then descends along the western coast of Kamchatka to Tigil, 760 miles further, at which point he strikes inland to a valley lying below active volcanoes, and so reaches Petropavlovsk, on the shore of the North Pacific, a land journey from Okhotsk of 2,540 miles, accomplished by deer, horses, and dogs.

Kamchatka is so called after the name of its principal river. The peninsula is 800 miles long, and from 30 to 120 miles wide; its total area being about 80,000 square miles, or five times the size of Switzerland. The southern extremity, called Cape Lopatka, is a low, narrow tongue of land, which, as it proceeds northwards, widens and rises into rocky and barren hills, with small valleys timbered with willow and stunted birch. Two degrees north the range divides, one portion running nearly due north and the other taking a north-easterly direction. In the fork formed by these two chains lies the valley of the river Kamchatka. The western chain rarely rises above 3,000 feet, but the eastern chain has many high volcanoes, among them Kluchevsky, which is somewhat higher than Mont Blanc, and not far from the sea. (1) [635]

1. Many ranges of terraces and secondary summits surround the mountain

as with an enormous pedestal, so that its base has a circumference of not less than 200 miles. The fissured summit constantly smokes, and twice or thrice a year throws out cinders. Ashes and dust have sometimes been carried to a distance of 180 miles, and covered the ground many inches deep, preventing the Kamchatdales from sledging. An eruption in 1737 ejected much lava, and this, dissolving the glaciers, poured into the neighbouring valleys a deluge of waters. In 1854 an other stream of fire descended from Mount Kluchevsky. From the crater of the Avasha, immediately behind Petropavlovsk, have been thrown at the same time stones, lava, and water. The following are some of the active volcanoes: Korakovsky, 11,200 feet; Chevelutch, 10,529; Jupanof, 8,478; Avatcha, 8,344; and the Great Tolbach, 7,618; Whilst, of the extinct volcanoes, Uchkin is the highest, with an elevation of 10,977 feet.

Earthquakes are more frequent, perhaps, in Kamchatka than in any other country. The number of shocks felt at Petropavlovsk averages eight annually. (1)

1. Mr. Hill describes one lasting no less than eight minutes. During the whole of this time rumbling and loud noises were heard beneath the ground,

and the earth trmbled violently. Some of those who experienced it said they thought at one moment that the earth was sinking beneath them, and the sea about to rush in upon the land, and the next that they were rising upon the crust of the crater of a volcano in terrible eruption beneath the ground."

1: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1954 RR1 Siberia
Kamchadal R43
Russian Islands RZ1

KAMCHADALS

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Soviet propaganda has never been very outspoken about the native people of South and Central Kamchatka – the Kamchadals – for a very good reason. Even Soviet historians could hardly claim that friendship between Russians and Kamchadals (or Itelmeny, as they are now called) ever existed in the past. It is a well-established fact that the presence of Russian Cossacks in Kamchatka provoked endless struggles and revolts in the early part of the eighteenth century. While it is true that many Cossacks lost their lives, it is equally undeniable that the first Russian colonizers wiped out the majority of the Kamchatka natives. Only the fact that Kamchatka is rather unsuitable for European colonization saved the Kamchadals from dying out entirely. While their number, which was about 30,000 before the Russian conquest, had dropped to about one-sixth, their relative strength was still fairly important at the end of the nineteenth century. The census of 1897 showed that the Kamchadals then formed over 48 per cent of the population of their homeland. Russian colonization under the Soviet régime changed things rapidly, to the detriment of the Kamchadals. In 1928 they comprised only one-quarter of Kamchatka's population, and in 1939, at the maximum, only 12 per cent.

In absolute figures there were 4,217 Kamchadals in 1926, but only 868 of them were able to speak their national language; the others were, as far as their culture is concerned, completely Russianized. In Petropavlovsk, the capital of Kamchatka, only 69 Kamchadals were counted in the 1926 census.

'ALEUTIAN NATIONAL DISTRICT'

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East of Kamchatka are the Commander Islands, consisting of Behring Island, where the famous explorer, Vitus Behring, died in 1741, and Copper Island (Medny). The two islands now form the 'Aleutian National District', which was set up in 1932. There are not more than 400 Aleutians in the Soviet Union. Practically all of them live in the 'District' which is to impress the 5,800 Aleuts of Alaska.

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Soviet propagandists have always taken great pride in the cultural successes of the 'Aleutian National District'. Its primary claim to fame is the fact that it was the first administrative unit of the Far East which achieved 100 per cent literacy. However, this triumph was not such a remarkable one as it may seem. Two thirds of the Soviet Aleuts were literate as early as 1926 at a time when the other Far Eastern tribes included only between 1 and 10 per cent of literate people. So the Soviet authorities can hardly take credit for an achievement which in all likelihood was

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/127 cont./ the next and last of the Kurile Islands, Schumschu /Shumshu/, on the other hand, received its population, not from the south anymore, but from the north, from the adjacent Kamchatka Peninsula. It was not Ainu, but Italmen or Kamchadal, who originally visited this island only to trap animals, but after the arrival of the Russians in Kamchatka, they began to take up permanent residence out of fear of having to pay tribute to the latter and because of quarrels among themselves (2). The names of the islands mentioned also suggest

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2. Steller, op. cit., pp. 7, 30; Krasheninnikov", op. cit., Vol. I, p. 143; Vol. II, pp. 2, 4.

this spread of the Ainu and Italmen over the Kuriles, for in the Ainu language "Poro mosiri" or "Poro-moschiri" means "large island" (3), and "samatsch" is said to mean "island" in the

3. Not simply "island," as Steller (op. cit., p. 7) interprets the name "Buru muschi" and the "Paramusir" made from it, so he thinks, by the Russians.

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Italmen language (4). Moreover, the Italmen on the island of

4. Steller, op. cit., p. 6. This is the reason why the inhabitants of the southern tip of Kamchatka call the inhabitants of the islands "Sumtschuai," i.e., islanders (Steller, op. cit., p. 7.

Schumschu and on the southern tip did not maintain relations with the Ainu from the more distant islands without mixing with them: for many years they have entered into marriages